

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**COUNTRY **East Germany**

REPORT

TOPIC **Military Activities in Gera and the Zeitz Forest**

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

27 June 1955

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REFERENCES

PAGES **2** ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 6 June 1955, the Panzer Kaserne (8142) in Gera-Tinz was occupied by an estimated 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. There was neither training nor any vehicular traffic. The unit from the installation was presumably stationed in the Zeitz Forest.
2. On 7 and 8 June, the Hussar Kaserne (8141) in Gera was occupied by an estimated 2,300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Drill and physical training were observed on both days. On 7 June, some 300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, almost all of them with artillery insignia, marched to Bernauer-Strasse, where they practiced laying of field cables.
3. Intensive construction activity was observed in the Untermhaus training area. Some 500 soldiers were employed. The observation towers in the northern portion of the training area were being dismantled. Deep excavations on a slope tended to indicate that bunkers and underground shelters were to be built there. Motor vehicles were seen en route to and from the training area.
4. The Zeitz Forest was believed to be occupied by an estimated 2,000 soldiers including some 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and 200 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport and artillery insignia. The units had come from Altenburg, Weissenfels and Gera-Tinz. The area was heavily guarded. Sentries were posted at intervals of 10 to 50 meters. According to a rough estimate 70 to 80 T-34/85 tanks were stationed in the training area. The about 50 T-34/85 tanks, which were emplaced in semi-underground positions along the edge of the forest, were still stationed there. A JS-1 tank, 1 JS-2 tank and 2 JS-3 tanks were seen near Grosser Stern. Four 100-mm AT guns and 1 x 85-mm AT gun were seen at the eastern border of the training area. Tents were located in the entire training area, predominantly in the eastern portion of the forest. brick buildings were to be erected in the Rhodensiedlung (settlement in Jagen (forest section) No 75. The cost for construction work in this area was to amount to 500,000 eastmarks. The construction of a water pipe line was to cost 50,000 eastmarks.

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1. **Comment.** The installation is believed to be occupied by the u/i Tank Tng Bn of the 8th Gdr Army.

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2. Comment. [redacted] the installation to be occupied to capacity. The 308th Arty Brig of the XXVIII Gds Metz Rifle Corps, units of which were temporarily absent for exercises in the vicinity of the post and the Zeitz Forest, are carried there. [redacted] 25X1
3. Comment. Increased improvement of post training areas was also observed at other posts. [redacted] 25X1
4. Comment. [redacted] The Zeitz Forest was utilized for exercises by units from Altenburg and Weissengels also in 1954. [redacted] 25X1

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